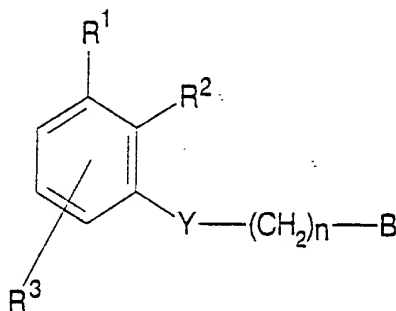


Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

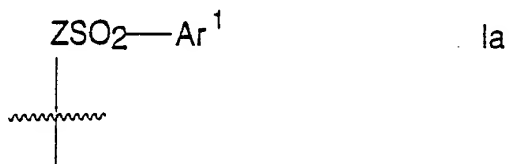
A2

1. (Amended) A compound of formula I,



wherein

one of R¹ and R² represents a structural fragment of formula Ia



and the other represents R⁴;

Z represents O or N(R⁵);

R³ represents one or more optional substituents selected from OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C(O)OR⁶, C₁-₆ alkoxy or C₁-₆ alkyl (which two latter groups are

optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or  $N(R^7)R^8$ ;

$R^4$  represents H, OH, halo, cyano, nitro,  $C(O)OR^6$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or  $N(R^7)R^8$ ;

$Ar^1$  represents phenyl,  $C_{1-3}$  alkylphenyl,  $C_{1-3}$  alkylidiphenyl,  $C_{3-7}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_{1-3}$ -alkyl- $C_{3-7}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_{1-3}$ -alkyl-di- $C_{3-7}$ -cycloalkyl, naphthyl,  $C_{1-3}$  alkylnaphthyl, thienyl, imidazolyl or isoxazolyl, all of which may be substituted by one or more substituent selected from OH, halo, cyano, nitro,  $C(O)OR^6$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or  $N(R^7)R^8$ ;

$R^5$  represents H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, phenyl or  $C_{1-3}$  alkylphenyl (which three latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituent selected from OH, halo, cyano, nitro,  $C(O)OR^9$ ,  $C(O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$ ,  $P(O)(R^{12})R^{13}$ ,  $P(O)(OR^{14})OR^{15}$ ,  $S(O)_2(R^{16})R^{17}$ ,  $S(O)_2N(R^{18})R^{19}$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or  $N(R^{20})R^{21}$ );

Y represents O, S,  $S(O)$ ,  $S(O)_2$  or  $N(R^{22})$ ;

$R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  independently represent H,  $OR^{23}$ ,  $C(O)R^{24}$ ,  $OC(O)R^{25}$ ,  $C(O)OR^{26}$ ,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, (which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituent selected from  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $OR^{27}$ ,  $N(R^{28})R^{29}$ ,  $C(O)OR^{30}$ ,  $C(O)N(R^{31})R^{32}$ ,  $P(O)(R^{33})R^{34}$ ,  $P(O)(OR^{35})OR^{36}$  and  $S(O)_2N(R^{37})R^{38}$ ),  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_pR^{39}$  or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached,

form a C<sub>4-7</sub> nitrogen-containing, aromatic or non-aromatic, ring which ring may contain a further heteroatom or group (as appropriate) selected from O, S and N(R<sup>40</sup>) and may further be substituted by one or more substituent selected from C(O)R<sup>41</sup>, C(O)OR<sup>42</sup> or C(O)N(R<sup>43</sup>)R<sup>44</sup>;

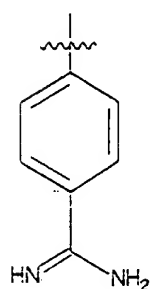
R<sup>28</sup>, R<sup>29</sup>, R<sup>30</sup>, R<sup>31</sup>, R<sup>32</sup> and R<sup>40</sup> independently represent H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituent selected from C(O)R<sup>45</sup>, C(O)OR<sup>46</sup> or C(O)N(R<sup>47</sup>)R<sup>48</sup>;

at each occurrence, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently represent H or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl; R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>19</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>, R<sup>21</sup>, R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>25</sup>, R<sup>26</sup>, R<sup>27</sup>, R<sup>33</sup>, R<sup>34</sup>, R<sup>35</sup>, R<sup>36</sup>, R<sup>37</sup>, R<sup>38</sup>, R<sup>39</sup>, R<sup>41</sup>, R<sup>42</sup>, R<sup>43</sup>, R<sup>44</sup>, R<sup>45</sup>, R<sup>46</sup>, R<sup>47</sup> and R<sup>48</sup> independently represent H or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

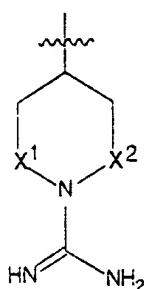
n represents 2;

p represents 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and

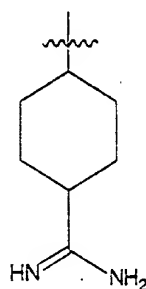
B represents a structural fragment of formula Ib, Ic, Id or Ie



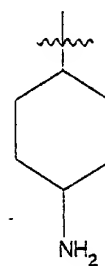
Ib



Ic



Id



Ie

wherein

12-4

$X^1$  and  $X^2$  independently represent a single bond or  $CH_2$ ;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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A<sup>3</sup>

4. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein  
 $R^2$  represents a structural fragment of formula Ia and  $R^1$  represents  $R^4$ .

5. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein  
Z represents O or  $N(R^5)$ , in which latter case  $R^5$  represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl terminated  
by  $C(O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$ .

6. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein  
 $R^3$  is not present, or represents methyl, chloro or methoxy.

Q3 cont.

7. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar<sup>1</sup> represents substituted phenyl.
8. A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1 wherein Y represents O.
9. A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1 wherein B represents a structural fragment of formula Ib.
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Q4

23. (Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.
24. (Amended) A compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical.
25. (Amended) A compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.
26. (Amended) A compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of thrombosis.

Q4a

27. (Amended) A compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as an anticoagulant.

28. (Amended) The use of a compound I as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as active ingredient in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.

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Q5

30. (Amended) The use of a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as active ingredient in the manufacture of an anticoagulant.

31. (Amended) A method of treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or susceptible to, such a condition.

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